

built in the Hoysala style of architecture  
 are dedicated  
 to Jain deities. A considerable part of the  
 population  
 even now is of this religion. The great  
 philosopher  
 Sankara stayed in Sringeri in the  
 Karnatak hill  
 country for some time and established a  
 monastery  
 there. To-day it is the most important of  
 the five  
 mutts which he is reputed to have  
 established at vari-  
 ous places in India. Persecuted in the  
 country of his  
 birth it was to Mysore that Ramanuja  
 fled. There,  
 with the support of the Hoysala King  
 Vishnu  
 Vardhana, he spread his creed of devotion  
 to Vishnu  
 among the people. A mutt which he  
 established is  
 still in existence in Melkote in Mysore  
 District.  
 Madhwa, the third great Acharya, was  
 perhaps a  
 Kannadiga himself. He was born in the  
 western  
 coast country and found ardent followers  
 in the  
 Karnataka. All the three important  
 monasteries of  
 his school of philosophy are now located in  
 the Mysore  
 State. Another religious movement no less  
 important  
 than these and perhaps more notable as a  
 protestant  
 movement was the Virasaiva movement,  
 the leader  
 and spokesman of which, the great  
 Basava, was out  
 and out a Kannada man. This movement  
 made a  
 noble effort to lift the dead weight of  
 custom from  
 the life of the masses and to set them on  
 the path to  
 a worthier life than they had ever thought  
 of before.

It used the vernaculars for expressing the  
best thoughts  
of the nation and for placing the highest  
ideals before  
the common people and appealed to their  
better sense  
in the interests of common humanity and  
a simple  
and pure faith.

The full and varied political and  
religious history